

## EURODAC

The Council took note of a presentation by Commissioner Gradin of a proposal for a Regulation on Eurodac, which her institution adopted on 26 May on the basis of the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty under which asylum and migration became Community matters.

It is recalled that the Council already reached agreement on a draft Eurodac Convention in December 1998 and on the content of a draft Protocol extending the Convention *ratione persone* in March 1999, on the understanding that the Commission would table a proposal for a Community instrument immediately after the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty. The Commission's proposal is intended to replace the draft Eurodac Convention and Protocol by reproducing their content in the form of a Community instrument. Certain changes are due to the new institutional framework.

Eurodac will be a central database, to be established within the Commission, for the comparison of fingerprints of asylum seekers, individuals who irregularly cross an external border of a Member State and, under certain circumstances, persons found illegally present in a Member State. Its establishment will facilitate the implementation and application of the Dublin Convention which determines the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States.

The Council mandated its competent bodies to examine the proposal of the Commission as soon as it is transmitted, with a view to reaching final agreement by the end of the year. In this work, the Opinion of the European Parliament to be delivered on this new proposal will also be taken into account.